



Linking climate change and progressive eutrophication to incidents of clustered animal mortalities in different geographical regions of South Africa

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Abstract:

Cyanobacterial blooms have become an increasing problem in South African freshwater bodies. Since certain species of cyanobacteria are well-known for biosynthesis of potent hepatic and neurotoxins, such blooms can pose a significant threat to the health of animals and humans. The massive proliferation of these organisms in rivers and lakes is largely due to progressive eutrophication. However, a warming trend in the Southern hemisphere, indicated by a threefold increase in the minimum temperature compared to maximum temperature between 1950 and 1990, is likely the cause of the increasing occurrence of toxic cyanobacterial bloom forming species, previously hampered by low water temperatures in different geographical regions of South Africa.

Source: <http://www.ajol.info/index.php/ajb/article/viewFile/66058/53775>

Resource Description

Exposure :

weather or climate related pathway by which climate change affects health

Food/Water Quality

Food/Water Quality: Biotoxin/Algal Bloom

Geographic Feature:

resource focuses on specific type of geography

Freshwater

Geographic Location:

resource focuses on specific location

Non-United States

Non-United States: Africa

African Region/Country: African Country

Other African Country: South Africa

Health Impact:

Climate Change and Human Health Literature Portal



specification of health effect or disease related to climate change exposure

Infectious Disease, Neurological Effect

Infectious Disease: Foodborne/Waterborne Disease

Foodborne/Waterborne Disease: Marine Toxin Syndrome

Foodborne/Waterborne Disease (other): hepatotoxicity

Resource Type: 

format or standard characteristic of resource

Review

Timescale: 

time period studied

Time Scale Unspecified